Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 26 April 2006

Current Nationwide Threat Level is ELEVATED Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks
For info click here
http://www.dhs.gov/

Daily Highlights

- The East Bay Business Times reports that the Shell Oil Products U.S. Martinez Refinery in the San Francisco Bay area is undertaking a $6 million security upgrade to include new fencing around portions of the 800−acre refinery, upgrades to its camera system, and crash devices at gates. (See item 5)
- USA TODAY reports states across the U.S. are removing sensitive data from official Websites that contain personal information on residents, from Social Security numbers to bank account numbers, in an attempt to mitigate the theft of information. (See item 14)
- Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff announced on Tuesday, April 25, that the department is taking significant steps to enhance security by conducting name−based background checks on nearly 400,000 port workers within the United States. (See item 18)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED
Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES−ISAC) − http://www.esisac.com]

1. *April 25, Australian* — **Terror suspect used fax at office to plot against energy infrastructure.** Terrorism suspect Faheem Khalid Lodhi used his work fax machine to get

information about chemicals he planned to use to bomb military sites and energy infrastructure around Sydney, Australia, a court has been told. Lodhi, who went on trial in an Australian Supreme Court on Monday, April 24, on four terrorism−related charges, is accused of plotting to blow up three military bases and the national electricity grid in October 2003 in a bid to wage "violent jihad" in Australia. Prosecutor Richard Maidment told the jury the chemicals Lodhi allegedly tried to obtain were included in a "terror manual" the Pakistani−born architect had written in his native language, Urdu. The court heard Lodhi downloaded from the Internet 38 aerial maps of army bases in Sydney. "Each of the defense force properties were establishments where the accused had previously worked in the course of his employment as an architect," Maidment said. Lodhi also allegedly obtained two maps of the national electricity grid from the Electricity Supply Association of Australia, using the false name.
Source: http://www.news.com.au/story/0,10117,18918270−421,00.html?fr_om=rss

2. *April 25, MarketWatch* — **Bush to halt strategic reserve deposits.** President Bush announced Tuesday, April 25, that he would halt deposits into the strategic petroleum reserve and that federal regulators are probing for signs of price−gouging in the nation's fuel markets. In a speech to the Renewable Fuels Association, Bush said the Department of Energy (DOE) would defer deposits of oil into the government's strategic reserve in hopes the move would make more oil available for consumer needs. "Our strategic reserve is sufficiently large enough to guard against any major supply disruption over the next few months. So by deferring deposits until the fall, we'll leave a little more oil on the market," Bush said. The announcement came a day after DOE proposed procedures to add more oil to the reserve. The emergency oil reserve currently holds 687.3 million barrels, and its capacity stands at 727 million barrels. Bush also said he had ordered antitrust authorities to probe for price−fixing or other anticompetitive behavior in the nation's energy markets.
Source: http://www.marketwatch.com/News/Story/Story.aspx?dist=newsfinder&siteid=google&guid=%7B57CF66E5−92CB−417D−A7C9−24931CCEE218%7D&keyword=

3. *April 24, Associated Press* — **North Dakota oil reserves increase.** North Dakota's oil reserves have jumped 41 percent, which state regulators hope will strengthen the case for long−term industry investment in the state's oil patch. A new analysis done by the state Industrial Commission's oil and gas division estimated the state's proven reserves at 550 million barrels. Geologists say there is a 90 percent probability that amount of oil can be pumped from western North Dakota, given current economic conditions. The division's director, Lynn Helms, said the agency is continuing to work on other estimates of probable oil reserves that are less likely to be produced. Most oil−producing states use oil reserve numbers compiled by the Energy Information Administration. Helms said he believed the North Dakota report provides a more comprehensive picture of the state's oil reserves, because individual producing oil fields were examined. Spokespersons for oil producers and a leading pipeline company said the North Dakota data is likely to stir industry interest. Robert Harms, a spokesperson for the Northern Alliance of Independent Producers, said "The more these companies have greater confidence that the resource is there, the more likely that you'll see investment."
Source: http://www.grandforks.com/mld/grandforks/news/14413954.htm?source=rss&channel=grandforks_news

4.

April 24, Associated Press — **U.S. energy secretary calls for tighter oil security.** A recent suicide attack on a Saudi oil processing plant underscores the need for Arab states to tighten security at their facilities, the U.S. energy secretary Samuel Bodman, said Monday, April 24. He also encouraged China and India to build strategic petroleum reserves, noting how America's reserve −− and the release of oil from that reserve −− helped blunt spiking prices after Hurricane Katrina. Addressing reporters at the 10th International Energy Forum in Qatar, Bodman was not specific about what new measures might be warranted on security. He stressed there was a need for increased security at energy installations across the region. The U.S. Navy helps provide some oil security to Persian Gulf nations, although it generally will not talk publicly about what it does.
Source: http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/world/20060424−1415−gulf− oilsecurity.html

5. *April 21, East Bay Business Times (CA)* — **Shell refinery invests $6 million in security upgrades.** Partly to curtail any risk of a terrorist attack, the Shell Oil Products U.S. Martinez Refinery in the San Francisco Bay area is undertaking a $6 million security upgrade. The project includes new fencing around portions of the 800−acre refinery, upgrades to its camera system, and crash devices at gates. Oil refineries, viewed as part of the country's critical infrastructure, have been hyper−aware of security since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. In the wake of hurricane Katrina, the U.S. Coast Guard established security zones extending approximately 100 yards around six refinery piers in the Bay Area. The restricted areas will be patrolled randomly by the Coast Guard, which also will rely on the refineries to alert it to any suspicious activity. The Coast Guard provides guidance as refineries develop their plans and will evaluate security drills and exercises. The Shell refinery has 30 to 35 workers involved in security at Martinez, but the refinery's entire 700−plus work force is trained in security awareness and encouraged to report unusual activity, said David Ayres, the refinery's health, safety, security, and environmental manager. "They're our single biggest tool" in trying to deter potential attacks, he said.
Source: http://www.bizjournals.com/eastbay/stories/2006/04/24/story3 .html?t=printable

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

6. *April 25, Associated Press* — **Utah highway reopens after tanker crash and explosion.** Highway 6 reopened in Spanish Fork Canyon, UT, Tuesday morning, April 25, after a tanker crash near Thistle Junction forced it to shut down Monday, April 24. Authorities say the tanker was carrying about 8,300 gallons of gas.
Source: http://kutv.com/topstories/local_story_115105438.html

7. *April 23, This Week News (OH)* — **Ohio school evacuated following ruptured gas line.** A construction crew working on the expansion and renovation at Sunbury, OH's, Big Walnut High School hit and ruptured a gas line Thursday morning, April 20. The school was evacuated for about 30 minutes, as a result.
Source: http://www.thisweeknews.com/?edition=Sunbury&story=thisweeknews/042306/Sunbury/News/042306−News−138996.html

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.
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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *April 25, Finextra* — **Self−service banking set to soar in U.S.** Retail banking customers in the U.S. will conduct nearly 55.5 billion self−service transactions a year by 2010, compared to the 38 billion transactions forecasted for 2006, according to the latest TowerGroup research. TowerGroup says U.S. bank customers are currently performing 100 million self−service transactions every day and the research predicts that self−service banking will undergo an explosion in both quantity and quality over the next few years. The number of online transactions conducted by U.S. customers is expected to rise from around 14.4 billion in 2006 to 24.4 billion in 2010. Meanwhile the number of transactions conducted using interactive voice response technology is set to rise to around 16 billion in 2010, from 12.2 billlion this year, while ATM transactions will increase from 14.4 billion in 2006 to around 15.1 billion in 2010.
Source: http://finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=15224

9. *April 25, Finextra* — **Barclaycard to by−pass fraud checks for vacationers.** In a bid to prevent legitimate cardholders being rejected when using their plastic abroad, Barclaycard says it will no longer refer overseas card transactions for fraud checks provided customers have informed the company of their travel plans. Fraud committed on UK payment cards abroad cost banks millions in 2005, according to figures from Apacs, and banks have adopted a cautious approach to authorizing transactions from far−flung holiday destinations.
Source: http://finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=15222

10. *April 24, VNUNet* — **Mobile commerce on the agenda again.** As many as 25 million mobile phone subscribers in the U.S. could be using their handsets as mobile wallets by 2011, technology watchers have predicted. Analyst firm In−Stat said that mobile commerce, the transaction concept touted in the 1990s that never took hold, is set to take off. The "mobile wallet" is now a much more versatile application that includes membership cards and other forms of identification.
Source: http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2154613/25m−mobile−phones− payments−2011

11. *April 24, Websense Security Labs* — **Phishing Alert: Commonwealth Bank of Australia.** Websense Security Labs has received reports of a new phishing attack that targets customers of Commonwealth Bank of Australia. Users receive a spoofed e−mail message, which claims that due to recent attacks, they must verify their account status. This message provides a link to a phishing Website, which prompts users to enter account information.
Source: http://www.websensesecuritylabs.com/alerts/alert.php?AlertID =471

12. *April 24, Websense Security Labs* — **Phishing Alert: Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union.** Websense Security Labs has received reports of a new phishing attack that targets customers of Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union, which is based in New York. Users receive a spoofed

e−mail message, which claims that they must confirm their e−mail address. This message provides a link to a phishing Website that prompts users to enter account information.
Source: http://www.websensesecuritylabs.com/alerts/alert.php?AlertID =470

13. *April 24, CNET News* — **RSA snaps up authentication software maker.** RSA Security has acquired authentication software maker PassMark Security in a $44.7 million cash and stock deal. The acquisition is designed to bolster RSA's presence in the financial services arena and build on its recent acquisition of Cyota, the company announced. PassMark provides two−factor authentication for conducting transactions over the Internet. PassMark also uses a voice−based biometric system to verify users' identity via wired and wireless phones, using their voice as a form of ID. The PassMark deal is designed to dovetail into RSA's acquisition of Cyota in December. Cyota focuses on serving the financial services industry by providing antiphishing technologies, among other services.
Source: http://news.com.com/RSA+snaps+up+authentication+software+maker/2100−7350_3−6064214.html?tag=cd.top

14. *April 23, USA TODAY* — **States rush to remove data on residents from Websites.** States across the U.S. are furiously removing sensitive data from official Websites. The task highlights challenges facing states with sites full of personal information on residents, from Social Security numbers to bank account numbers. Such data is available in Florida, Ohio, and at least a dozen others, say privacy experts. Many state laws require property records be posted online in the interest of open government. To mitigate the theft of information, at least six states use redaction software, which digitally erases information, specifically to excise nine−digit entries such as social security numbers. Several states have passed laws requiring counties to redact sensitive information. In addition, lawsuits have forced the removal of social security numbers from financial documents, including an instance last month which required the removal of social security numbers posted on the Ohio Secretary of State's Website.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/internetprivacy/2006−04−23 −redact_x.htm

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

15. *April 25, Herald News (NJ)* — **Reducing aircraft noise.** As New Jersey's Teterboro Airport has expanded from a municipal airport to what some residents call a full−fledged La Guardia, the noise from planes flying over schools has also been amplified. "The airplane noise is constant throughout the day," James J. Jencarelli Jr., principal of Becton for the Carlstadt−East Rutherford school district, said Monday, April 24. In February 2005, Port Authority Chair Anthony Coscia said the agency would be reducing flight volume by 10 percent. Coscia was prompted to take action after an airplane shot off the end of a runway at Teterboro, ran across Route 46, and hit a building, injuring more than 20 people. Since that time volume has gone down 4.2 percent from 203,086 landings and takeoffs in February 2005 to 193,733 in February 2006. In response, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates Teterboro and three other general aviation airports, has authorized a $37 million grant to reduce aircraft noise in eight schools in New Jersey and 13 in New York. Mark La Vorgna, a spokesperson for the Port Authority, said the agency has been working with Teterboro to cut down nighttime flights, and to use smaller, quieter planes to reduce noise.

Source: http://www.bergen.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpcnk3ZjczN2Y3dnFlZUVFeXkzJmZnYmVsN2Y3dnFlZUVFeXk2OTI0Nzg3JnlyaXJ5N2Y3MTdmN3ZxZWVFRXl5Mw==

16. *April 25, Associated Press* — **Burlington Northern railroad profit gains.** Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corp., operator of the nation's second−largest freight railroad, said Tuesday, April 25, first−quarter profit gained as its trains carried more volume at higher prices, offsetting a spike in fuel costs. The railroad said it earned $410 million, or $1.09 per share, compared to $321 million, or 83 cents per share, a year earlier. The difference is because railroads, unlike U.S. airlines, have been able to pass higher energy costs to their customers in the form of rate increases and fuel surcharges. Burlington Northern said demand for rail service was very strong across its business, with double−digit gains in revenue from carrying coal, consumer goods, and industrial and agricultural products. Fuel costs jumped 43 percent from a year ago, to $561 million. That contributed to a 14 percent rise in overall costs. Burlington Northern was able to overcome the cost increases by raising revenue per car by 11 percent and growing its fleet of cars by nearly five percent.
Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/060425/earns_burlington_northern.htm l?.v=4

17. *April 25, Reuters* — **High gasoline prices encourage bus, train travel.** All around the United States, drivers are sticker−shocked by the price of gasoline, which is up 42 cents in the past month nationally to more than $3 per gallon in much of the country, transportation officials said on Monday, April 24. "People are trying to avoid the high cost of gasoline by using public transportation," said William Millar, president of the American Public Transportation Association. The higher number of riders on mass transit has persisted since gas topped $3 a gallon last fall and increased steadily since then, he added. And, in some cities where the car is undisputed king of transportation such as Houston and Los Angeles, public transportation ridership is up. In Houston, home to many oil refineries, ridership was up 10.2 percent in the most recent fiscal year, said Houston's Metropolitan Transit Authority, which has a large bus fleet. Last week, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority in the nation's capital had the two highest ridership days in the Metrorail's 30−year history that were not linked to a special event.
Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=domestic News&storyid=2006−04−25T131027Z_01_N24335400_RTRUKOC_0_US−EN ERGY−GASOLINE−TRANSPORT.xml

18. *April 25, Department of Homeland Security* — **DHS implements immediate measures to secure access to ports.** Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Michael Chertoff announced on Tuesday, April 25, that the department is taking significant steps to enhance security by checking the backgrounds of port workers. The department will begin conducting name−based background checks on nearly 400,000 port workers within the United States. These checks will be an initial measure as the department expedites the rollout of a comprehensive nationwide biometric−based Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) in 2006. The preliminary name checks will be completed by the summer of 2006 and will initially be required for longshoremen and maritime employees of facility owners and operators. Ultimately, all individuals will require a TWIC in order to be eligible for unescorted access to secure areas. Basic identifying information will be collected by the U.S. Coast Guard during the name−based checks. This information will allow the Transportation Security

Administration to vet workers against terrorist watch lists through the Terrorist Screening Center. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement will ensure workers are legally eligible to work in the United States. Though biometric information will not be collected during the initial name checks, it will be a key piece of identity verification for the TWIC.
Source: http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=5550

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Postal and Shipping Sector

19. *April 25, Associated Press* — **Chemical spills at Alabama post office.** A chemical used to make artificial fishing lures leaked from a flimsy package at a Hueytown, AL, post office and sent about 20 postal workers to a hospital Tuesday, April 25, after some experienced breathing problems, authorities said. The noxious yellow liquid was so highly concentrated that it damaged the tile floor when it spilled, Police Chief Doug McBee said. Six postal workers had trouble breathing and were taken to UAB Medical West in nearby Bessemer for treatment and decontamination. "The hazardous materials people say it's fish bait, but we want to make sure our employees are safe," said Larry Dingman, a spokesperson for the U.S. Postal Service in Memphis, TN.
Source: http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/sns−ap−post−office−chemical,0,921378.story?coll=sns−ap−nation−h eadlines

20. *April 25, North Lake Tahoe Bonanza (NV)* — **Suspicious substance causes Nevada post office closure.** The Incline Village Post Office was evacuated shortly Monday morning, April 24, and closed for two hours after postal employees called the Washoe, NV, County Sheriff's Office when they noticed a white powdery substance leaking from a manila envelope. Sheriff's Office and North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District officials partitioned off the post office entryway and kept people away from the premises while waiting for hazardous materials specialists from the Washoe County Health Department to arrive. Minutes after arriving on the scene, Paul Donald, hazardous materials specialist with Washoe County, identified the substance as sugar. Donald used a portable infrared spectrometer which has the ability to quickly identify 150,000 compounds. After matching the spectra signature of the substance in question with that of sucrose, Donald opened the suspicious envelope and found several pieces of San Javier cake wrapped in a plastic bag. A powdered sugar type frosting was the culprit of the white powdery substance that had caused postal employees concern.
Source: http://www.tahoebonanza.com/article/20060425/NEWS/60424001

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Agriculture Sector

21. *April 26, PLoS Biology* — **A new model for predicting outbreaks of West Nile virus.** West Nile virus is a big threat in North America, where Culex mosquitoes are the primary vector. Birds are their main target, but mosquitoes also transmit the virus. A new study presents evidence that a shift in Culex pipiens mosquito feeding behavior from birds to mammals is also driving the epidemics. A critical factor in predicting the intensity of a zoonotic epidemic

involves determining how the vector's feeding behavior and preferences change over space and time. The researchers hypothesized that if mosquitoes bit mostly birds in the summer, then switched to humans in the fall, this behavior could intensify both the summer epidemic in mosquitoes and the subsequent transmission to humans. The researchers modeled the risk of Cx. pipiens−mediated viral transmission to humans. The model predicted that the risk of human infection peaked in late July to mid−August, declined toward the end of August, then rose slightly at the end of September. The pattern of actual human cases "showed a strikingly similar pattern." This study highlights the importance of understanding how vector behavior affects transmission of zoonotic pathogens to humans −− a crucial step in developing strategies to prevent and control a potential epidemic.
Study summary: http://biology.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get−document&doi=10.1371/journal.pbio.0040082
Source: http://www.thehorse.com/viewarticle.aspx?ID=6845

22. *April 25, USAgNet* — **West Nile virus is a threat to unvaccinated horses.** As spring approaches and temperatures rise, growing mosquito populations will increase the risk for deadly mosquito−borne diseases, including West Nile virus and equine encephalomyelitis. Unseasonably warm weather and mild winter conditions, which have been experienced in many parts of the country this year, may lead to an increased threat of West Nile virus. Torrential rains in other parts of the U.S. further complicate the risk. West Nile was found in mosquitoes in January in Baton Rouge, LA. In California, four counties have already reported birds testing positive for the disease, a finding that is "early in the season," according to Gary Erbeck of the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health. Randy Phillips, who is helping to coordinate the West Nile virus response at the Clark County Health Department in Vancouver, WA, says there's an increased chance of West Nile in northern Oregon and Southwest Washington. "Mosquitoes may be more prevalent due to the high rains and mild temperatures we've had this year," says Phillips.
Source: http://www.usagnet.com/story−national.cfm?Id=736&yr=2006

23. *April 25, USAgNet* — **Johanns says Canada beef curbs may be lifted.** Canada's fifth case of mad−cow disease won't stop the U.S. from expanding beef and cattle trade with its North American neighbor, Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns said. Johanns, at a Washington news conference with his Canadian counterpart Chuck Strahl, said he is pushing for a rule to allow the U.S. to import cattle older than 30 months along with beef on bones. Johanns said he "is very committed to getting it done" even though a change won't occur this year because of recent Canadian cases of the disease, including one this month. The latest infected animal, a six−year−old dairy cow from British Columbia, was born after the governments prohibited cattle feed enriched with ground−up cattle parts.
Source: http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story−national.cfm?Id=7 29&yr=2006

24. *April 24, AgricultureOnline* — **Soybean cyst nematodes remain most damaging soy pest.** Growers in Illinois suffer more than $250 million in yield losses every year due to soybean cyst nematodes (SCN), according to a recent survey conducted by researchers from the Department of Crop Sciences at the University of Illinois. Soybean cyst nematodes are the number one soybean pest in the U.S. They are currently found in 30 states, but all soybean production areas will likely soon be affected. According to Iowa State University Extension (ISU), it's difficult to estimate the true economic impact of SCN, because many producers suffer declining yields

for years before they realize SCN is the culprit. ISU estimates annual U.S. losses at around $1.5 billion. In Iowa, SCN is present in 75 percent of fields, and is estimated to cost growers more than 50 million bushels a year. The study found that growing any single resistant variety is not enough to control the problem. The best solution would be to rotate varieties with different sources of resistance. For most growers, that is nearly impossible because almost all the common varieties come from the source known as PI 88788.
Source: http://www.agriculture.com/ag/story.jhtml;jsessionid=O4DMVMDR031WHQFIBQSCBHQ?storyid=/templatedata/ag/story/data/1145981830183.xml&catref=ag1001

25. *April 22, Noolhar.com (Brazil)* — **Cattle contaminated with foot and mouth disease finally eliminated in Brazil.** Officers from The Animal & Vegetable Sanitation Defense Agency (IAGRO) in Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil, finished Saturday, April 22, culling cattle contaminated with foot and mouth disease (FMD) at the Medianeira III Farm located in Japora Municipality, near the Paraguayan border. Approximately 137 infected animals were identified, and another 11 animals from surrounding farms were destroyed. According to Joao Cavallero, IAGRO chairman, another three farms neighboring Medianeira II are under surveillance. The number of animals to be eliminated after this surveillance may reach 100. According to federal Agriculture Superintendent Jose Antonio Felicio, measures for fighting FMD should not be limited to animal elimination. "We are currently keeping 1,200 animals under observation; all of them will undergo serological testing, and the entire region will be covered with respect to detecting any outbreaks."
Source: http://www.promedmail.org/pls/promed/f?p=2400:1001:484844525 7007497380::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_I D:1000,32768

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Food Sector

26. *April 25, Associated Press* — **Fatal disease from flavoring raises flags.** A potentially fatal lung disease linked to chemicals used in food flavorings poses a growing health risk, according to government scientists. Bronchiolitis obliterans first emerged as a threat within the food industry in 2000, when the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) investigated lung illnesses among workers at a southwest Missouri popcorn plant. Investigators subsequently found the disease among popcorn workers throughout the Midwest. They linked it to diacetyl, a substance found naturally in many foods but which also is artificially produced and widely used to enhance flavor or impart a butter taste. NIOSH has linked exposure to diacetyl and butter flavoring to lung disease that sickened nearly 200 workers at popcorn plants and killed three. Bronchiolitis obliterans causes inflammation and obstruction of the small airways in the lung by rapid thickening or scarring. The irreversible condition is progressive and often fatal without a lung transplant. About 70 U.S. companies are involved in the making and sales of flavorings, according to the Flavor and Extract Manufacturing Association. Of more than 8,000 employees, 3,000 are engaged in the actual production of flavorings. In the larger food processing industry, tens of thousands of workers are estimated to work with flavorings.
Source: http://abcnews.go.com/Health/print?id=1885680

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Water Sector

27. *April 25, TCPalm (FL)* — **Rain doesn't eliminate drought conditions in Vero Beach.** Weekend rainfall didn't douse the drought in Indian River County, FL, so government wildfire and water conservation warnings remain in effect. No matter how much rain falls, Florida still faces a drought of cheap drinking water, government officials say. Florida's growth — about 1,200 people a day are moving in — is adding up to a drinking water demand that could exceed supply within 20 years, according to the St. Johns River Water Management District. Currently, most Floridians get their drinking water from wells.
Source: http://www.tcpalm.com/tcp/local_news/article/0,2545,TCP_1673 6_4647867,00.html

28. *April 24, WCVB−TV (MA)* — **Water plant vandalism costs Massachusetts town thousands.** A security breach last month at a water storage facility in Blackstone, MA cost the town nearly $41,000. Three teenagers broke in and urinated into the 1.3 million gallon tank, but no chemical contamination was found.
Source: http://www.thebostonchannel.com/news/8951723/detail.html?rss =bos&psp=news

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Public Health Sector

29. *April 25, Integrated Regional Information Networks* — **Ethiopian government launches anti−malaria plan.** Ethiopia has launched a five−year malaria treatment and prevention plan at cost of $447 million in an effort to lessen the burden of the disease, the health ministry has said. The plan, which the government distributed to its partners on Tuesday, April 25, is intended to provide early diagnosis and treatment services and implement mosquito control measures. An estimated 68 percent of the country's 73 million people who live in malaria−prone areas will have access to treatment by 2010 when the plan is expected to be fully implemented.
Source: http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=52952&SelectRegion=Horn_of_Africa&SelectCountry=ETHIOPIA

30. *April 25, Reuters* — **Warmer weather won't put lid on H5N1 virus: experts.** The return of warmer weather to the northern hemisphere is unlikely to bring a let−up in the deadly H5N1 virus since it is already endemic in poultry flocks in several parts of Asia, experts say. Scientists previously found the bird flu virus to be most active from October to March when temperatures are cooler or below 68 Fahrenheit, but now they are warning against any complacency with the return of summer. "I don't think it will go away in the summer months, it will continue to be in poultry," said Hong Kong microbiologist Malik Peiris, who has studied the virus since 1997, when it made its first known jump to humans in Hong Kong, killing six people. "The virus has been persisting in quite diverse climates, such as Indonesia, where it is hot...To a large extent it has been maintained in poultry flocks."
Source: http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=1886101

31. *April 25, Reuters* — **Test confirms H5N1 flu in fourth Afghan province.** The deadly H5N1 bird flu virus has been found in poultry in a fourth Afghan province, Kapisa, a United Nations agency said on Tuesday, April 25. The virus had been found already in samples from birds in Kabul, Logar and Nangarhar provinces. There are also strong suspicions that two other provinces −− Laghman and Parwan −− are affected but further analysis is needed.
Source: http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ISL141006.htm

32. *April 24, Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy (University of Minnesota)* — **Study cites gaps in Europe's flu pandemic plans.** European countries' plans for coping with an influenza pandemic are generally good but have a number of gaps, including a lack of detail on distribution of drugs and supplies, according to an analysis published last week by The Lancet. The analysis of plans prepared by 21 countries gave them average scores of 54 percent for completeness and 58 percent for quality. The report was prepared by Sandra Mounier−Jack, MSc, and Richard J. Coker, MD, of the Department of Public Health and Policy at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. In their analysis, the authors used 47 essential criteria and looked at seven thematic areas: planning and coordination, surveillance, public health interventions, health system response, maintenance of essential services, communication, and "putting plans into action." They found the plans generally good in the areas of surveillance, planning and coordination, and communication. But the plans were "probably inadequate" when it came to maintenance of services, putting plans into action, and public health interventions.
Abstract (free registration required):
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673 606685115/abstract?iseop=true
Source: http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/april2406europe.html

33. *April 24, Reuters* — **Malaria treatment still elusive to most.** Most of the world's millions of malaria sufferers are not getting life−saving drugs nearly five years after the World Health Organization urged their widespread use, despite a huge boost in aid, health experts said on Monday, April 24. The UN health agency has since 2001 recommended countries switch to artemisinin−based combination drugs −− known as ACTs −− to treat malaria because the deadly mosquito−borne infection had become resistant to conventional medicines like chloroquine. While 34 African countries have committed to using ACT therapies, the Roll Back Malaria Partnership group said only 17 use the medicines in their health systems. Of these, just four are distributing the drugs on a national scale, it said, while most of those who catch the disease are still treated with cheaper, less effective drugs.
Source: http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L24257146.htm

34. *April 18, News−Medical Net* — **Role of migratory birds in the spread of avian influenza amongst bird populations in the European Union.** The Panel on Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW) of European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has adopted a scientific statement on the role of migratory birds in the spread of the H5N1 form of avian influenza amongst domestic and wild bird populations in the European Union. The scientific statement confirms that some species of wild birds are carrying the disease, lists those birds most likely to expose domestic poultry to H5N1 and identifies free range and backyard flocks and poultry holdings near wetlands as being most at risk. It also makes a series of recommendations on how to reduce the probability of H5N1 spreading to domestic poultry. EFSA has published this scientific

assessment with regard to the urgent need to provide scientific advice for the management of risks associated with migratory birds. A more comprehensive scientific opinion is expected to be adopted by the AHAW Panel on Wednesday−Thursday, April 26−27.
Full text of the scientific statement:
http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/ahaw/ahaw_opinions/1438_en.ht ml
Source: http://www.news−medical.net/?id=17396

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.
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Emergency Services Sector

35. *April 24, News Journal (DE)* — **Delaware's emergency system to be tested.** The Delaware Emergency Management Agency will test the state's emergency notification system in selected areas from Tuesday, April 24, through Friday, April 28. The system can deliver thousands of warnings every 10 minutes.
Source: http://www.delawareonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060424/NEWS/604240350/1006/RSS

36. *April 24, Bangor Daily News (ME)* — **State task force prepares support in case of disaster.** In 2003, Dartmouth College created a unique tri−state, collaborative disaster response capability known as the Northern New England Metropolitan Medical Response System (NNE−MMRS), which covers Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. The goal in Maine is to have 50 to 60 doctors, nurses and other emergency medical personnel ready to roll if disaster strikes. The NNE−MMRS component for Maine is known as Maine Task Force 1, or MTF−1. It addresses multiple areas of need, including support activities with the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the Maine Emergency Management Agency and Maine Emergency Medical Services, all geared toward making sure adequate numbers of trained medical personnel and other medical resources are available. From an operational standpoint, MTF−1 falls under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Preparedness Directorate at DHS playing key supporting roles. MTF−1 is expanding its membership in a controlled fashion. Across the entire tri−state region, the goal is for at least 200 operational personnel to start, including the 50 or 60 in Maine.
Source: http://www.bangornews.com/news/templates/?a=132581

37. *April 24, Air Force Material Command News Service* — **Firefighters test gear for Air Force.** Being a firefighter is arguably one of the most physically demanding jobs. For that reason, the Air Force is finding ways to make the job easier. Sixteen firefighters at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida are testing new protective gear that may increase comfort, mobility and mission effectiveness for more than 3,600 active−duty and 2,800 Air Force Reserve firefighters. Joseph Rivera, Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency's Fire and Emergency Services program manager said the firefighters are testing an upgrade to the Joint Firefighter Integrated Response

Ensemble. The test could lead to the replacement of the existing chemical protective overgarment with a lighter chemical protective undergarment.
Source: http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123019437

38. *April 22, KCAL−TV (CA)* — **Long Beach Airport drill simulates major disaster.** Authorities simulated a major aircraft disaster at Long Beach Airport in California on Saturday, April 22 as part of a large−scale emergency response exercise. Five components participated in the drill, including law enforcement, aircraft rescue and firefighting, Urban Search and Rescue, public information and family reunification, airport spokesperson Sharon Diggs−Jackson said. About 400 safety, law enforcement and airport personnel and about 200 volunteers participated in the exercise.
Source: http://cbs2.com/topstories/local_story_112223322.html

39. *April 21, GovExec* — **FEMA acquisitions chief pushes recruiting program.** The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) recently arrived acquisitions chief is backing an agency program to recruit workers for two− to four−year stints as the hurricane season looms. Thousands of Cadre on−Response Employees, or CORE workers, are being brought in as the agency continues to provide relief to victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and boosts staffing elsewhere. Part of FEMA's goal is to have an emergency response infrastructure already in place in hurricane hot spots, said Deidre Lee, who serves as the agency's deputy operations director as well as the head of acquisitions.
Source: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33892&dcn=to daysnews

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

40. *April 24, Security Focus* — **Apple Safari Web browser rowspan denial−of−service vulnerability.** Apple Safari Web browser is prone to a denial−of−service vulnerability. Analysis: A vulnerability exists in Safari 2.0.3 (417.9.2) and perhaps in prior versions which causes the operating system to slow down Spinning Rainbow Cursor Of Death, and therefore, it's not possible to launch any applications like Terminal to kill the process. After several minutes Safari crashes. Solution: Currently, Security Focus is not aware of any vendor−supplied patches for this issue.
Source: http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/17674/references

41. *April 24, Security Focus* — **Multiple vendor DNS message decompression remote denial−of−service vulnerability.** Multiple DNS vendors are susceptible to a remote denial−of−service vulnerability. This issue affects both DNS servers and clients. Analysis: Under certain circumstances, it is possible to cause both DNS servers and DNS clients to terminate abnormally by sending it malformed messages. The text portions of DNS messages are specified by first giving the character count, followed by the characters themselves. For example to specify 'test.test.com', the message would look like '0x04test0x04test0x03com0x00' using 16−bit numbers. From RFC1035, Section 4.1.4, "Message Compression" specifies a way to create smaller messages so that they can easily fit into a DNS UDP packet. Hence if the top two bits of the label length byte are one, the remaining 14 bits specify an offset from the

beginning of the text on where the remaining characters can be found. This way, redundant information can be removed and hence create a smaller message. For a complete list of vulnerable products: http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/13729/info
The following versions are not affected by this issue; users are advised to upgrade: DeleGate 8.10.3 and subsequent versions; dnrd 2.18 and subsequent versions; PowerDNS 2.9.17.
Solution: Cisco has released advisory cisco−sn−20050524−dns to address this issue. For further information: http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/13729/references
Source: http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/13729/discuss

42. *April 24, Security Focus* — **Mozilla Firefox iframe.contentWindow.focus buffer overflow vulnerability.** Mozilla Firefox is prone to a buffer overflow vulnerability when rendering malformed JavaScript content. An attacker could exploit this issue to cause the browser to fail or potentially execute arbitrary code. Analysis: A handling issue exists in how Firefox handles certain Javascript in js320.dll and xpcom_core.dll regarding iframe.contentWindow.focus(). By manipulating this feature, a buffer overflow will occur. Vulnerable: Mozilla Firefox 1.5.2; Mozilla Firefox 1.5.1; Mozilla Firefox 1.5 beta 2; Mozilla Firefox 1.5 beta 1; Mozilla Firefox 1.5; Mozilla Firefox 1.5.0.2. Solution: Currently, Security Focus is not aware of any vendor−supplied patches for this issue.
Source: http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/17671/references

43. *April 24, Security Focus* — **IBM AIX 'rm_mlcache_file' insecure temporary file creation vulnerability.** The IBM AIX 'rm_mlcache_file' command may let local attackers overwrite arbitrary files. Analysis: The rm_mlcache_file contains a race condition when processing temporary files which allows a local attacker to overwrite arbitrary files. Attackers can launch attacks by running the program directly, or waiting till root user runs it. Successful exploitation may result in data loss or DoS, specifically depending on the overwritten file. Vulnerable: IBM AIX 5.3 L; IBM AIX 5.3; IBM AIX 5.2 L; IBM AIX 5.2; IBM AIX 5.1 L; IBM AIX 5.1.
Solution: IBM has provided an APAR to address this issue in AIX 5.3.0. APARs for other affected versions are pending release. IBM has also released interim fixes to address the issue.
For more information: http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/17576/solution
Also see NSFOCUS Security Advisory: http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/17576/references
Source: http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/17576/discuss

44. *April 24, Security Focus* — **Cisco Security Agent crafted IP packet denial−of−service vulnerability.** A denial−of−service vulnerability has been reported in Cisco Security Agent (CSA). This issue may be triggered by a maliciously crafted IP packet. Analysis: Successful exploitation will crash the Microsoft Windows operating system hosting the CSA software. A malicious attacker may be able to send a crafted IP packet to a Windows workstation or server running CSA 4.5 which may cause the device to halt and/or reload. Repeated exploitation will create a sustained DoS. This vulnerability affects only CSA 4.5 on Windows operating systems other than Windows XP.
Solution: Cisco has released CSA maintenance version 4.5.1.616 and CSA hotfix version 4.5.0.573 to address this vulnerability.
For more information: http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/14247/solution
Source: http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/14247/references

45.

April 24, Tech Web — **Hacker's toolkit attacks unpatched computers.** A dirt−cheap, do−it−yourself hacking kit sold by a Russian Website is being used by more than 1,000 malicious Websites, a security company said Monday, April 24. Those sites have confiscated hundreds of thousands of computers using the "smartbomb" kit, which sniffs for seven unpatched vulnerabilities in Internet Explorer and Firefox, then attacks the easiest−to−exploit weakness. For $15 to $20, hackers can buy the "Web Attacker Toolkit," said San Diego−based Websense in an online alert. The tool, which uses a point−and−click interface, can be planted on malicious sites −− or on previously−compromised computers −− to ambush unsuspecting users. "It puts a bunch of code on a site that not only detects what browser the victim is running, but then selects one of seven different vulnerabilities to exploit, depending on how well−patched the browser is," said Dan Hubbard, senior director of security and research at Websense.
Websense Informational Alert: Web attacker sites increase:
http://www.websensesecuritylabs.com/alerts/alert.php?AlertID =472
Source: http://www.informationweek.com/news/showArticle.jhtml?articl eID=186700539

Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US−CERT Watch Synopsis

Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.

US−CERT Operations Center Synopsis: US−CERT is aware of publicly available exploit code and materials explaining how to exploit a race condition vulnerability in Sendmail. Sendmail improperly handles asynchronous signals causing a race condition vulnerability. Successful exploitation may allow a remote, unauthenticated attacker to execute arbitrary commands with the privileges of the user. For more information please review the following:

TA06−081A − Sendmail Race Condition Vulnerability
http://www.us−cert.gov/cas/techalerts/TA06−081A.html

VU#834865 − Sendmail contains a race condition
http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/834865

Sendmail MTA Security Vulnerability Advisory
http://www.sendmail.com/company/advisory/

US−CERT recommends the following actions to mitigate the security risks:

Upgrade to the latest version: Sendmail 8.13.6.
http://www.sendmail.org/releases/8.13.6.html

Review the Sendmail MTA Security Vulnerability Advisory for steps to reduce the impact of this vulnerability. http://www.sendmail.com/company/advisory/#mitigation

US−CERT is not aware of any working exploit code at this time.

Phishing Scams
US−CERT continues to receive reports of phishing scams that target online users and Federal government web sites. US−CERT encourages users to report phishing incidents based on the following guidelines:

Federal Agencies should report phishing incidents to US−CERT.
http://www.us−cert.gov/nav/report_phishing.html

Non−federal agencies and other users should report phishing incidents to Federal Trade Commissions OnGuard Online. http://onguardonline.gov/phishing.html

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win−rpc), 50497 (−−−), 445 (microsoft−ds), 55620 (−−−), 32775 (sometimes−rpc13), 80 (www), 32459 (−−−), 6881 (bittorrent), 3525 (−−−), 135 (epmap) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html; Internet Storm Center

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US−CERT at soc@us−cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us−cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: https://www.it−isac.org/.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument &Icons Sector

46. *April 25, Chicago Tribune* — **Chicago getting more security cameras.** Mayor Richard Daley on Tuesday, April 25, said 70 new pole−mounted security cameras would be installed in Chicago, bringing to 170 the total number of such cameras used by the city to monitor streets, sidewalks and other public places. Fifty of the new cameras will be smaller and lighter than the others, making it easier to move them to locations based on crime patterns and police intelligence reports, officials said. Currently, the city has 100 pole−mounted cameras in high−crime areas. Officials said they are in the process of determining where the new cameras would be placed. They said some would go near Chicago Public Schools sites. Chicago Police Supt. Phil Cline said the additional cameras "send a message to gang members that they're being watched."
Source: http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/custom/newsroom/chi−060425cameras,1,6001986.story?coll=chi−news−hed

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General Sector

Nothing to report.
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DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports − The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open−source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website: http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions:	Send mail to dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983−3644.
Subscription and Distribution Information:	Send mail to dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983−3644 for more information.

Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282−9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US−CERT at soc@us−cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us−cert.gov.

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